

Application No.: 09/470155

Case No.: 55235US002

Remarks

Claim 1 is currently amended. Claims 1, 3-7, and 10 are pending.

§ 112 Rejections

Claims 1, 3-6, and 10 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Patent Office asserts that the specification as filed only provides support for crown ether contents ranging from 0.5 to 1% by weight using one significant digit (Example 17, and Examples 1, 5, 9, 19, 21-24, respectively).

Applicant has amended claim 1 so to recite a range of from 0.5 to 1 weight percent crown ether in order to facilitate prosecution. The Patent Office has stated that such a range is clearly supported by the specification. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the above rejection of the claims be withdrawn.

Applicant also requests consideration to rejoin non-elected species claims 8, 9, and 11 that had been previously withdrawn as genus claim 1 has been allowed.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

March 16, 2004
Date

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Scott A. Bardell, Reg. No.: 39,594
Telephone No.: (651) 736-6935

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833